

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 H-03 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 NEA-10

SS-20 SCEM-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 150020Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2064

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LT SF US

SUBJ: PERMREP MOLAPO ON LESOTHO-SAG RELATIONS

1. LESOTHO PERMREP MOLAPO CALLED ON AMB BENNETT DEC 13, TO DISCUSS TWO DEVELOPMENTS, REPORTEDLY ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRIMIN JONATHAN. MOLAPO OBSERVED THAT, AS A RESULT OF JONATHAN'S APPEAL AT OTTAWA COMMONWEALTH MEETING THAT COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS ASSIST IN LESOTHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM, COMPOUNDED WITH MOLAPO'S STATEMENT IN APARTHEID COMITE CONCERNING LOSS OF BASOTHO LIVES AT CARLTONVILLE, SAG REACTION HAD BEEN VIOLENT. FIRST WAS PRIMIN VORSTER'S OUTBURST; NOW LESOTHO HAS RECEIVED "INVITATION" FROM SAG TO DISCUSS REPATRIATION OF BASOTHO WORKERS IN SA. SINCE THEY ARE UNHAPPY IN REPUBLIC, PRETORIA REASONS, LET OUR TWO GOVTS REACH SOLUTION WHEREBY THEY MAY RETURN HOME. MOLAPO BELIEVES THAT SAG CAN REPATRIATE NUMBERS LARGE ENOUGH TO CAUSE THE ALREADY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION TO CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEM. JONATHAN'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO SEEK HELP FROM SYG AND UNDP ADMINISTRATOR, CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH OF WHOM MOLAPO HAS SEEN. MOLAPO SAID THAT TALKS WITH

PETERSON HAD BEEN "ENCOURAGING," BUT HE REQUESTED THAT WE ALSO ASK FOR LARGER CONTRIBUTION TO LESOTHO FROM UNDP KITTY. AMB BENNETT INDICATED TO MOLAPO THAT WE WOULD TRY TO SPEAK WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT UNDP.

2. MOLAPO NEXT TURNED TO SUBJECT OF OIL. ALTHOUGH BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND DID NOT ATTACK SOUTH AFRICA AT UN, AND "ALWAYS ABSTAINED ON EMBARGO RESES," SA IS MOUNTING THREATS AGAINST BLS, WHOSE LEADERS ARE CONSULTING ON POSSIBLE ENERGY MEASURES. MOLAPO INTENDS TO TRAVEL SHORTLY WITH HIS MINISTER OF FINANCE TO LIBYA, IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT. OTHER BASOTHO LEADERS ALSO WILL BE TRAVELING TO ME TO BARGAIN FOR OIL.

3. IN LEAVING, MOLAPO URGED MISOFF TO DISCOURAGE UNDP OR OTHER BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO BANTUSTANS. HE SAID THAT REPLYING POSITIVELY TO CHIEF BUTHELEZI'S IMMINENTLY EXPECTED DEMANDS ONLY WOULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER BANTUSTANIZATION WITHIN SA.
BENNETT

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